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Ukraine

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Ukrainian Agrarians are in Favor of Production of GE Crops

Report Categories:

Biotechnology - GE Plants and Animals

Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

The agricultural industry in Ukraine is becoming more active in advocating for legal production of GE crops in Ukraine for feed purposes and for exports. The Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine is considering draft changes to the current legislation to allow use of GE soybeans and perhaps other feed crops that may be produced in the country. Industry groups support the initiative and see no issue in securing export markets for such products.

General Information:

In a recent press event, the Head of the Ukrainian Grain Association stated that his organization, together with several other industry groups, intends to appeal to the top leaders of the country asking to change the current legislation to allow use of genetically engineered (GE) seeds in crop production in Ukraine. They advocate for the adoption of the GE crops that are already allowed in the United States and in the European Union.

According to this interview, at present Ukraine does not have the resources to conduct its own extensive multi-year tests of GE crops. However, since the US and the EU researchers have already invested in such studies and have already obtained reliable results, it makes sense for Ukraine to utilize their experience.

According to some industry experts, as reported in their statements, it is estimated that about 15 percent of corn and about 30 percent of soybeans produced in Ukraine are of GE origin. Even though the current legislation in the country prohibits production of GE crops, the spread of the GE crops in Ukraine has started before any restrictions were put in place. It is apparent that there is demand for agricultural commodities that contain GMOs. And as Ukraine is a strong world market supplier of agricultural products it shouldn't become an issue to find buyers for such products.

In addition, within the last month, the press has informed the public that the Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine has initiated the draft changes to the current legislation to allow production of such GE crops in Ukraine like soybeans that are mainly used for animal feed and for exports.